



# bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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October 9, 2014

Agenda Item #3 c

To: Governing Board

Fr: Tom Ford, Executive Director

Re: Summary of Presentation on Ballona Monitoring Program

## **Background:**

In southern California, human-induced impacts have significantly modified many of our coastal wetland systems, including the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. The presentation will summarize data analyses and reporting from the Reserve including a look into the five-year, long-term monitoring program, current site conditions and impacts, historical ecology information, vegetation invasion over time, and how the Reserve monitoring program fits into a regional context.

The monitoring program has completed five years of biological, physical, and chemical pre-restoration baseline assessments, including data collection on everything from water quality to birds to land elevations. Staff analyzed the condition of each of the habitats found throughout the site by evaluating multiple physical and ecological factors in each habitat type.

The project objective of the monitoring program was to increase knowledge of the health and functioning of the Reserve to inform the restoration process and provide detailed data to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) team. In some cases, these data are comparable to those collected on site previously; one example is the shift in vegetation alliances over time using geospatial mapping. In some cases, such as with the motion camera surveys or phytoplankton community surveys, the information collected has helped to fill data gaps.

Full reports are available for download at the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project website: [www.ballonarestoration.org](http://www.ballonarestoration.org). Additional reports with supplemental data are in development and will be released to the public upon completion.

